

I CLAIM:

1. A slip-sheet picking and discarding mechanism comprising:
 - a roller having a longitudinal dimension spanning the width of said slip-sheet;
 - 5 rotating means connected with said roller;
 - at least one clamping means arranged along the longitudinal dimension of said roller, each said at least one clamping means having a clamping portion and a surface-contact portion; and
 - 10 elevating means for elevating said roller and said at least one clamping means, wherein said clamping portion is positioned at a given distance from said roller when said roller and said surface-contact portion are in contact with the surface of said slip-sheet, and wherein said clamping portion is in contact with said roller when said roller and said surface-contact portion are not in contact with the surface of said slip-sheet.
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2. The apparatus of claim 1, additionally comprising disposal means for disposing said slip-sheet.
3. In a CTP imager, a method of picking a topmost slip-sheet from a stack of plates, comprising the steps of:
 - 20 providing an apparatus comprising:
 - a roller having a longitudinal dimension spanning the width of said slip-sheet;
 - rotating means connected with said roller;

at least one clamping means arranged along the longitudinal dimension of said roller, each said at least one clamping means having a surface-contact portion and a clamping-portion; and elevating means for elevating said roller and said at least one clamping means, wherein said clamping portion is positioned at a given distance from said roller when said roller and said surface-contact portion are in contact with the surface of said topmost slip-sheet, and

wherein said clamping portion is in contact with said roller when said roller and said surface-contact portions are not in contact with the surface of said topmost slip-sheet;

positioning said apparatus in a first position, wherein said roller and said surface-contact portion are in contact with said topmost slip-sheet;

rolling said roller, thereby creating a fold in said topmost slip-sheet and stopping said rolling operation according to predefined criteria; and

lifting said apparatus, thereby clamping said fold between said surface-contact portion and said roller.

20 4. The method of claim 3, additionally comprising, after said step of lifting, the step of:

rolling said roller a second time, thereby releasing said slip-sheet.